

**Working in the Time of COVID-19 Oral History Project**  
**Labor Archives of Washington**  
**University of Washington Libraries Special Collections**

**Alex Mason**  
**Steamfitter Apprentice, McKinstry**  
**Member, Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local 32**

**Interviewee:** Alex Mason

**Interviewers:** Conor Casey

**Subjects:** COVID-19, pandemic, pipefitter, steamfitter, pipefitting, trades, apprenticeship, queer, union shop, masks, lockdown, unemployment

**Location:** Seattle, Washington via Zoom

**Date:** September 28, 2020

**Interview length:** 00:43:42

**File name:** MasonAlex\_2020\_C19\_Interview\_Video\_Completed.mp4

CONOR CASEY 00:00:15: Good afternoon. It's September 28, 2020. 3:44pm. This is Conor Casey interviewing Alex Mason for the "Working in the Time of COVID-19 Oral History Project." Alex, I just want to make sure we have your consent to record your interview and share it with the public.

ALEX MASON 00:00:35: Yes.

CONOR 00:00:36: Thank you very much. Okay. Without further ado, I will go through some of these questions that we'll go over at first have to do with demographics because we want to make sure that we don't assume anything about anybody's identity or anything. I wonder if you could spell out your first and last name so we make sure we get that correct.

ALEX 00:01:03: Yep. My first name is Alex. It's A-l-e-x and my last name is M-a-s-o-n.

CONOR 00:01:14: Okay, thank you. How old are you? What is your date of birth?

ALEX 00:01:21: I just turned 30. And my date of birth is 9/25/90.

CONOR 00:01:27: And where were you born?

ALEX 00:01:30: I was born here in Washington, in Edmonds.

CONOR 00:01:35: What is your gender or preferred pronouns?

ALEX 00:01:40: He/him and male.

CONOR 00:01:42: Okay. What race or ethnicity do you identify as?

ALEX 00:01:48: White.

CONOR 00:01:49: Okay. And where do you live now, Alex?

ALEX 00:01:53: I live in Capitol Hill in Seattle.

CONOR 00:01:56: Oh, cool, me too. Right on.

ALEX 00:01:58: *(laughs)* Nice.

CONOR 00:02:00: Yeah, keep in the neighborhood.

ALEX 00:02:02: Yep, I [*?love this?*] neighborhood.

CONOR 00:02:07: I wonder if you could say a couple words about your occupation here. What's your occupation or profession?

ALEX 00:02:15: Right now I'm a steamfitter apprentice. I'm about to be a fourth year—start my fourth year in apprenticeship.

CONOR 00:02:26: Okay. How many years are in the program? When are you gonna turn out?

ALEX 00:02:32: Our program is five years. I have my fourth year and then just my fifth year, so very excited. It's coming up pretty soon.

CONOR 00:02:42: Yeah, homestretch. That's awesome.

ALEX 00:02:44: Yeah, yes.

CONOR 00:02:47: How long have you been working that job? Have you been working in the job the whole time you've been in the apprenticeship or, how [inaudible] \_\_\_\_\_ you know?

ALEX 00:02:56: I've just moved to a new company at McKinstry. I've been there for like two and a half months. They try to rotate you throughout your apprenticeship so you can meet new people and get to new places. I was working for about three, two and a half, two and a half to three years at McDonald Miller and then I just rotated to McKinstry. I do more industrial piping stuff. Before, I was doing high rises and things like that.

CONOR 00:03:35: So, right now, obviously, to be in an apprenticeship, you have to be a member of the union, and you are. You a member of a union before then, or did you have other union gigs?

ALEX 00:03:45: No, this is the first time I've ever been a part of a union, so I'm coming up on my fourth year in the union now.

CONOR 00:03:54: Okay. Have you served any offices within the union or served any any committees yet?

ALEX 00:04:04: No, I've been a part of committees, but I have not held a position in any of those committees yet. Yeah, no, not yet. Hopefully soon.

CONOR 00:04:18: Just out of curiosity, what committees have you served on, even if it was ex officio?

ALEX 00:04:23: Sorry, say that again?

CONOR 00:04:25: I said, even if it was ex officio, the ones that you did serve on even if it wasn't as an officer.

ALEX 00:04:33: Right now I'm involved in the MLK Labor Council. I'm trying to get a part of the Washington Labor Council. I've been going as a guest, and, hopefully, in the next two years, I'll be able to be a delegate when they revote. That's what I'm a part of now. I was a part of Women in the Pipe Trades when I first got in, but, since COVID, there hasn't been a lot of meetings or in-person activities. Those are just the two that I've been a part of since I got in.

CONOR 00:05:16: Okay, thanks. Wow, yeah, so you're really engaged. You're looking to serve a bunch of different—service and committees and get really involved.

ALEX 00:05:24: Yeah, I definitely—and I want to get more involved on the political side, too. But, again, with COVID, I was gonna start doing it again when we go back to school, but with COVID is really limited—the meetings and things like that, but we'll just have to wait until it's over.

CONOR 00:05:46: Yeah. First of all, I'll let you know I'm gonna mute myself while you're answering because my wonderful neighbor just returned and decided they were going to start playing with sounds like The Beatles upstairs. So *(laughs)*

ALEX 00:06:01: No worries.

CONOR 00:06:02: That's—background noise. I live in an apartment building. I can't do much, you know?

ALEX 00:06:07: No worries

CONOR 00:06:10: How has your work been impacted or disrupted by the pandemic so far?

ALEX 00:06:18: I was working on Rainier Tower and we were—someone on our job site from another trade had contracted COVID and so our whole job site shut down. We were out of work for over a month, I believe.

CONOR 00:06:37: Oh, is IBEW [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers] 46 working there, too? Because I think I talked to somebody who works in the south tower who talked about that.

ALEX 00:06:45: Yeah, yeah. I'm pretty sure, yeah—there's a ton of electricians out there, actually. That's a big job.

CONOR 00:06:52: Oh, okay. That's really interesting. She actually didn't say the name of the job so you're helping flesh out the picture. Oh, this is cool.

ALEX 00:07:02: Yeah, that was Rainier Tower, the one that got shut down. That was, like, the first one, I think, that was really shut down that I heard— that I heard of in the industry, but I don't know, I could be wrong.

CONOR 00:07:13: Okay, and you all were designated frontline or essential workers by the Stay Home Stay Healthy order, is that right?

ALEX 00:07:22: Yeah, I remember our boss had given us a letter from our employer saying that we were essential on, like, the first day that everybody was told to stay home, so yeah.

CONOR 00:07:42: Okay, and then, did you ever have to—I think we'll touch this later, but did you ever have to stay home, were you sheltering in place for a while on the job? Did this ever come to a pause?

ALEX 00:07:56: Yeah, we were off for a whole entire month. So, yeah, we didn't go back and then some people didn't even go back after that. They were given a choice. They advised us for the safety of our system that we get back to work and not let a bunch of water sit and rust in the system, so we went back. We were advised, pretty much we were told we had to go back to work.

CONOR 00:08:28; Wow. Okay, but did they frame like an option?

ALEX 00:08:34: Yeah, I think they did. Yeah. Kinda, yeah. I'm pretty sure they did. I can't remember.

CONOR 00:08:46: You mentioned how they framed this thing in terms of the safety of the system and I wonder [inaudible] \_\_\_\_\_ you felt like you were ever in danger in terms of your health as a result of the pandemic on the job site?

ALEX 00:08:59: Oh, yeah. I definitely don't believe that we needed to go back to work and I don't believe that— It was all about money and it's all about time and money. Yeah, I definitely think—and, out at Rainier, there was— that was a huge job. There was hundreds of people out at that job. I definitely think that we shouldn't have been out there at all, and I think we definitely risked our health to go back to work too soon. For sure.

CONOR 00:09:39: I'm wondering, then, did your employer ever provide any personal protective equipment?

ALEX 00:09:46: Yeah, they gave us masks, a couple of different masks and gloves and things like that. I think they actually did a really good job. When we did come back, they were pretty strict on the six foot rule, they were really strict on mask wearing, and stuff like that. I think the general contractor—I think they did try really hard when they did have us back to work. So there was like sanitizer everywhere, there was masks— there wasn't, like, masks readily available for everyone, but I believe everyone got at least two or three masks.

CONOR 00:10:31: Did you ever [inaudible] \_\_\_\_\_ hazard pay as a result of working during the pandemic?

ALEX 00:10:37: No, no, our pay was never, never different.

CONOR [00:10:43

How did you feel like your company or union or coworkers responded to the (siren passes)— ?

ALEX 00:10:50: Sorry, hold on. I'm going to put you on mute for a second. (pause) Sorry, say that again?

CONOR 00:11:00: Oh, sure. I was just wondering if you could characterize the evolving response of your company, and the co-workers, to the pandemic on your job site.

ALEX 00:11:14: I think the reaction from my co-workers— I don't think anybody believed it and I don't think every—anybody really took it that seriously. The only reason they followed the rules was because they had to or else they'd get kicked off the job. When I went to that other company, I had a boss who was actually—thought this whole thing was a hoax, and kept trying to fight the general contractor on why we shouldn't be forced to like wear our masks and all this stuff. He was looking up the statutes and all this stuff, and he was really spending a lot of time. I think—I think the general contractor at Rainier Tower did a really good job of trying to follow the rules and trying to enforce the rules. As far as the other companies go, I don't—I think (pause)I don't think it was very good.

CONOR 00:12:21: On your job site, one of the other people I talked to was talking about how people's job responsibilities changed during the pandemic: some people had to sanitize stuff, some people had to do stuff. So I'm wondering what the staffing change looked like on your job site, and also what your workload might have looked like?

ALEX 00:12:44: Definitely. It didn't really change much within our trade, but definitely I saw for the laborers and things like that, there was a ton of people washing things down, there was people setting up delineators to keep people separated. A lot of the general contractors' people just hanging up signage, just monitoring. I'm pretty sure that was Lease Crutcher Lewis was the general contractor on that job. There was a ton of changes on people's responsibilities. I think ours just became the helpers just had to sanitize things more and then our— My workload, I think, it started to become more because you had to fit the same amount of tasks in one day with all these extra layers of things that you had to do, like wearing a face shield over a hard hat and then you have welding gloves and then—you know what I mean? That's already—all that PPE is already a challenge already, and so then you have the face mask and then our companies didn't get us the right hookups for our hardhat for the face shield. So, they were all off to the side, falling. Our company did not— Because everybody wears different sizes of hard hats and things like that, they just got a one size fits all and so that was a disaster. Yeah, definitely a lot of changes for sure.

CONOR 00:14:42: Did y'all wind up having to bring, to a certain degree, some of your own PPE to work?

ALEX 00:14:48: Yeah, because the face masks they gave us were not comfortable at all and we just ended up bringing our own stuff—a lot of your own face masks. Some people had to make their own headpieces for their hard hats. Yeah, a lot of creative things, as far as the face masks and the shields go.

CONOR 00:15:17: Did you ever feel like there was a tension as a worker between the stuff that the contractors and the foreman were saying, and the management was saying, and how you were trying to inhabit the directives for both your own health and also the official policy?

ALEX 00:15:35: Sorry, will you say that one more time?

CONOR 00:15:38: I was just wondering if, as a worker, you ever felt like you had to—what your experience was of the tension between the foreman, and the contractors, and management and yourself, trying to work your way through that policy?

ALEX 00:15:56: Yeah, because you have— Every entity has their own idea, and their own personal beliefs of what's going on and everybody has a different culture, like Mac Miller had a different culture than the GCs. So, yeah, trying to navigate that was difficult because you'd have these very strict rules coming from the general contractor, and then you have foremen, and these guys that are your bosses, and, like, journeymen basically tell you that it's bullshit, and they're getting frustrated because they got to wear the mask. So they're just like, "Forget this. I'm not gonna wear this right now. You can't tell me I'm—" Yeah, you're caught in between that type of situation and then you'd see people— To get on the elevator, you have to have your face mask and they won't let you on the elevator at all. Then you see people who forget their PPE get really frustrated at the people upholding the [rules]. Yeah, there's definitely a clash of views. How to navigate that? I I don't know, just try to—I just tried to wear my mask and do the right thing and just make everybody else's job easier, even if I didn't necessarily think it was necessary. Try to make everybody else— We're all going through this together, so why even try to make a big deal about it?

CONOR 00:17:42: If this was the same job site, it sounds like at the beginning, they had tons of— It took a while for them to get the hand sanitizer, but then they did have the hand sanitizer. It sounded like it was getting a little bit more loosey goosey now, if that's accurate?

ALEX 00:17:58: Yeah, definitely. At the beginning, it was super strict. Everybody gets a certain amount of hand sanitizer. Oh, and they were doing temperature checks, asking questions. Now, they're not doing any of that, at least not at my job. The mask rule is very loosely—there's no enforcement on it, and working at a shop is always more lenient, or whatever. Yeah, there's no temperature checks, there's no—I mean, you have to have a mask on you, but nobody's gonna enforce it. They don't ask you any questions upon entering or anything like that. So yeah, it's definitely loosened up a lot.

CONOR 00:18:54: Wow, that's interesting. Did you have to yourself access any government or community support due to the virus?

ALEX 00:19:05: I did have to file for unemployment, but, other than that, no.

CONOR 00:19:13: Can you talk a little bit about what the process was like for you when you had to file for unemployment?

ALEX 00:19:20: Yeah, so I had to file for unemployment like the next week. We ended up getting laid off in the middle of the week so we didn't end up getting paid for that week. So, we had the next week and it did take, I think, two to three weeks to go through, but I did get approved for unemployment. It was difficult. I remember having to call a bunch of times, but I did actually end up getting it.

CONOR 00:20:05: Did you ever get sick from COVID? Or do you know anybody who did?

ALEX 00:20:11: Actually, I do know quite a few people who—friends who got it. Then I do know co-workers who have gotten it. I think, like, at least five people.

CONOR 00:20:31: What was that like for you? To know about that and to process that?

ALEX 00:20:38: It's weird for it to get that close to you because you see it on the TV, but you don't—a lot of people don't know somebody who has had it. So, it just was a reminder of how close and how serious it is, but none of them died. So, that was good.

CONOR 00:21:01: As a result, were you able to, or did you try to help them out while they were sick? I know it's kind of challenging right now.

ALEX 00:21:11: Yeah, absolutely, like reaching out and just letting them know that we can go get groceries or do anything? Yeah, absolutely.

CONOR 00:21:26: What does an average day look like right now for you? From the moment you get up and then leave your house and go to work, can you walk me through what it's like—the steps of what it feels like to go to work now?

ALEX 00:21:41: Basically, wake up, get ready, get my lunch, go to work. But now, mask on, gloves on before you—well, I don't put my gloves on when I leave the house, but I put my mask on when I leave the house. I live in an apartment complex, so we cannot be walking around without your mask. Then, mask all day at work, under your weld hood. Then, at the shop, it's a more relaxed situation. Then, just, eight hours and then come home, and then pretty much don't do anything and then just go back to work again.

CONOR 00:22:31: How do you get to work?

ALEX 00:22:34: I drive.



CONOR 00:22:37: Did [?I hear right?], that there's been a transition from when you were working at Rainier Tower, you're now working in more of a shop environment? Is that a shift?

ALEX 00:22:48: Sorry, say that answer.

CONOR 00:22:50: Oh, sorry. Did I hear correctly that at the beginning you were working in Rainier Tower, but now you're more of in a shop environment? Did it shift? Oh, so that's interesting. So, you can compare the practices around, say, lunches or breaks or sanitation and different environments. What's it like? Do people congregate and talk to each other? Do they take lunch together? I'm just curious about the beginning versus now, and the large job site versus the small one. Can you talk a little bit about the similarities and differences?

ALEX 00:22:57: Yeah, so I've worked at a couple of different job sites since I got in, but my most recent— When COVID hit, I was at Rainier Tower. Then, after COVID—after that month off, I went back to Rainier Tower for a little bit and then got rotated to McKinstry, which is located—their shop is in the SoDo district now. I've been there for a few months now. The big job sites, where there's hundreds of people on them, it was way more strict and that's probably because it was at the beginning that I was there. Yeah, like, six feet always, no more than X amount of people, sanitizer everywhere, can't break with other groups of people. Then, at a small job site, it's way more relaxed because there's not as much supervision and there was alternating break schedules so you could only have one or two people at a table at a time, things like that. Then, at my job now, in the shop, it's very relaxed. There's not a lot of—you have to have a mask somewhere on you, but if it's not all the way on your face, you're not going to get in trouble. The break thing has gotten really lax. There's big groups breaking, some people don't even wear masks at all, there's not a lot of sanitizer. So, it's definitely been a big difference for sure.

CONOR 00:25:20: Wow. How do you feel like when you've [?trying to?] get other co-workers to wear stuff? Do you feel supported if you were going to try to do that, or is it just every person for themselves right now?

ALEX 00:25:43: At my last job, where that guy was, like, basically trying to get the GC to not enforce the mask rule, if I would have said something on that job, he would have made fun of me. But, on this job, if I would have said, "wear your mask," I think people would probably push back for sure because I don't think anybody really wants to wear them anyways, so they— It's also the top down mentality. The top people aren't really like enforcing it so I don't think everybody else is.

CONOR 00:26:21: Yeah. I have another question, which is—one of the things we reflect back on this moment, this era— What has been the most challenging? Although, (*laughs*) I've realized this question is becoming increasingly sadly funny, because the only thing we're lacking in this moment is, like, locusts, right? (*laughs*)

ALEX 00:26:43: Yeah. No, seriously, seriously. Sorry, what was your question again?

CONOR 00:26:54: I'm wondering what has been the most challenging thing, over time, for you about all this?

ALEX 00:27:01: Honestly, the most challenging thing about this whole thing is listening to people not take it seriously and their lack—realizing the lack of care that a lot of people have. You know, that has probably been the worst thing about this whole thing is to see how many people are actually (pause) like that and are willing to protest against wearing masks and things like that. Yeah, that's probably the worst thing about it, to be honest. Because wearing a mask to protect other people—it's whatever. It is what it is, and we've all gotten used to it. We've been doing it for a while now, but, yeah, that's probably the worst part.

CONOR 00:28:00: Did any of your apprenticeship classes go online during this?

ALEX 00:28:06: Yeah, they did. We switched. They were already in transition to do school online. They already had started it, so this just gave them a big push to get everything online. The last half of our school year was online.

CONOR 00:28:25: What was that transition [?like for you?], to watch them transition, and in motion?

ALEX 00:28:31: It was fine. I prefer online stuff, anyway, and I had used it in college, so it was fine for me.

CONOR 00:28:49: [?What about?] the transition—it sounds like you're on a lot of committees. For those affinity organizations and labor organizations, what has it been like for them to start meeting online if they didn't before?

ALEX 00:29:03: I was a part of Reckoning Trade Project and, also, I am a part of a networking group of queer, trans trades workers. For those groups, I think it's been more challenging at first, especially with the MLK Labor Council because it is like such a huge number of people and then you have technical difficulties, sound issues, things like that. It's been increasingly hard for those, but for the smaller groups, like the networking things, it's been fine because you can still FaceTime and do all the things and meet in these small groups and it's not super hard to navigate.

CONOR 00:30:00: Do you notice any—people often talk about there being a tech gap with people who have different levels of money, or experience or a generational tech gap. What's that been like? Have you noticed how—the way that's played out?

ALEX 00:30:17: Yeah, absolutely. In our class, like alone, there are people who don't have laptops and people don't have the access to these things. Especially with libraries being closed and different public things, for sure. I'm lucky enough and privileged enough to have a computer to do them. So I haven't personally noticed anything, but, no, it's definitely out there for sure. Our union wasn't offering laptops or iPads. I don't think they were that far along in the process of going digital for our curriculum, so I'll be interested to see if that's something that they do this year.

CONOR 00:31:15: Did any of your fellow students or committee members release stories about what they tried to do to get access to WiFi or a computer during this time? What lengths are they going through to try to do that?

ALEX 00:31:29: I know that I saw a bunch of GoFundMes. People are starting GoFundMes and putting out their Cash apps, and things like that. I just saw yesterday, someone—an organizer was like, "I really want to start doing more Zoom calls. I need a computer." I've definitely seen people trying to crowdfund. Other than that, I'm not sure what they're doing.

CONOR 00:32:01: You alluded to the fact that the job site was shut down for a month. I'm wondering whether you were ever quarantined, and what that's been like, how it's changed over time, particularly in relation to your social life, or how that has impacted?

ALEX 00:32:19: Yeah, I quarantined for the first two weeks, and then pretty much the entire month, I didn't leave my apartment because it was nice to have a month off. *(laughs)* It definitely has changed my social life, but in good ways. Obviously, we don't see people—I was very social, used to go out a lot on the hill, and now we don't go see drag shows or hang out with our friends as much, but definitely created a lot more solid, real friendships outside of those different things via FaceTime or Instagram or sharing—People have been sharing a lot of queer art and doing Zoom drag shows, and stuff like that. Interacting with people like that has been really, really awesome.

CONOR 00:33:26: That's interesting. Everybody's kind of adapting to these new platforms, huh?

ALEX 00:33:32: Oh, yeah, all the queer and trans artists are so with it and very with the times. Everybody started going online and lives and engaging people differently. The drag scene, it's—All these different scenes have changed so much. Even for nightclubs and DJs, they still are doing more lives, and stuff like that. People are very much still creating and out there, just in different ways.

CONOR 00:34:08: Have you all done any [?social distanced?] things, like in parks or people's backyards or anything like that?

ALEX 00:34:15: Oh, yeah, for sure. My friends, they have a bigger backyard with a fire pit, and we did a social distance, six feet around the fire hang. That was pretty cool. Or, go to a park, that's a pretty easy one to do when it was nice.

CONOR 00:34:36: Do you ever worry about losing housing, or your housing situation being precarious because of the pandemic?

ALEX 00:34:49: I was not—I was lucky enough to not just because I got unemployment so quickly, but if it had gone on for a longer period of time, yes, absolutely, for sure. But, no, not as of COVID or right now.

CONOR 00:35:14: I'm wondering whether—you kind of alluded to it, but have you or your family, your social circle, are you wearing masks and practicing social distancing when you're around each other?

ALEX 00:35:27: Yes, mhmm.

CONOR 00:35:36: Do you have [inaudible] \_\_\_\_\_?

ALEX 00:35:42: Sorry, can you hear me?

CONOR 00:35:43: Sure. I'm sorry, do you have kids? Do you have children?

ALEX 00:35:47: I don't, I do not.

CONOR 00:35:49: Okay, I guess I don't have to ask about childcare, then. So, this next section is more a big picture type of thing, and I'm wondering, from your perspective, what do you think life is going to be like, after this?

ALEX 00:36:07: What is life going to be like after this? That is such a good question. I don't think it's ever gonna be the same. I think mask wearing will probably become more an adopted, just social thing that we do, or a cultural thing that we do. I think the occupancy of restaurants and bars might change. Then, I'm sure you'll see just events start to evolve and change to fit— They'll figure out how to make money some way, shape or form. I don't know. It'll be interesting, for sure.

CONOR 00:36:56: What has surprised you out of this moment?

ALEX 00:37:03: It surprised me that— Now you hear about all these companies that are potentially going to go—their employees are going to be working from their homes, like it makes more sense financially for their companies to have their employees working in their own spaces, and it makes people happier. I think it's interesting that it took that long and it took a pandemic for people to be, like,

"This is a good—we should be doing this." I think that that was probably the most surprising thing. It is also surprising when you find out that there's a lot of people in this world and in your own community that really don't care about the health and wellness of other groups, or other people, that is really surprising.

CONOR 00:37:55: I'm wondering if you can reflect on—you touched on this, but any positive experiences from the pandemic that have happened to you?

ALEX 00:38:05: I'm definitely connecting with people, in new spaces, like, forcing—being forced to interact with your community in different ways, seeing how something that shakes up your community can actually bring you all closer.

CONOR 00:38:31: One of the interesting features of this whole moment, too, is that it felt like it coincided with a major civil rights moment, and so I was wondering if you could talk about your experience or your participation in, or thoughts about Black Lives Matter?

ALEX 00:38:47: Oh, yeah, absolutely. The revolution is, in part, why I made that next step into getting involved with the MLK Labor Council and the Washington State Labor Council, the group of queer and trans organizers that I was meeting with in the trades, we're talking about new ways that we can move forward within to help the revolution. With being in the trades, pushing those points or their action items in those ways, in our—in the space that I hold in the trades. Then, we have been protesting since the beginning. We live right on 15th. so I've been very active from a financial standpoint, a physical standpoint, trying to help out and learn in any way that we can—I can. Also talking to people at work, that has—having those conversations around the revolution and these new ideas that are coming up. It's been a great opportunity to have that conversation with these people, who are typically more right wing or, you know—construction, typical construction, folks.

CONOR 00:40:30: Could you say the name of that organization, or the acronym of the organization, of queer trans workers?

ALEX 00:40:40: There's a group called RTP, which is Reckoning the Trades Project. I'm not directly affiliated with them anymore, but I was in the beginning. Now there's just a group of independent queer and trans trades workers that we organize independently, and try to push things in our own independent unions, and also try to network in the trades, essentially.

CONOR 00:41:20: What was your practice around— Here, we're working to try to get PPE, but there's this civil rights movement, and this is the most dangerous time to be in crowds, but it's also the most important time to show up. How did you navigate that tension?

ALEX 00:41:39: We just made sure that we had the right PPE. We just went and got it and tried to make sure that all of our friends who are going down there have the right stuff. We really masked up, sometimes two or three masks., like, cover yourself so you're not getting sprayed with the tear gas or the mace or things like that. We went above and beyond, for sure, to get out there, for sure. Everyone out there is very masked up, too. There was not many times that I saw people without a mask out there. That was a very rare sighting.

CONOR 00:42:25: I guess besides being community-minded, when they start sending tear gas out, you definitely want to wear a mask, anyway.

ALEX 00:42:32: Yeah, for sure.

CONOR 00:42:36: Do you have any other thoughts that you'd like to share? Is there anything important that you want to talk about that you feel I missed in my questions, or anything that you think we should cover?

ALEX 00:42:47: No, you asked me some really good questions, so that was good.

CONOR 00:42:52: Cool. I really appreciate your time. Thank you so much [?for taking the time to?] talk, and I'd love to interview you again sometime, if you're open to that.

ALEX 00:43:01: Yeah. Let me know if you ever need me for anything. I'm very open— This was awesome.

CONOR 00:43:09: Cool. Thank you so much, Alex, I really appreciate it. Do you know of any other folks that are frontline workers that are part of the formations you're part of that might want to be interviewed? We're partnering with unions, but I think it's also important to not have the leadership in unions be the only people recommending people. It should be people who are also agitating.

ALEX 00:43:30: Yeah, I will think about that, and I will get back to you.

CONOR 00:43:35: Okay, thank you. Well, thank you so much. I hope you have a good rest of your day. Thanks.

ALEX 00:43:39: Alright, bye.